IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A swivel joint for a construction machine comprising a lower travel structure and an upper swing structure mounted on said lower travel structure, hydraulic equipment disposed on said lower travel structure and including travel motors and a blade cylinder and hydraulic equipment disposed on said upper swing structure and including valve apparatuses for control of said travel motors and said blade cylinder said swivel joint comprising a body rotating together with said swing structure, and a spindle mounted to said travel structure and rotatably inserted in said body, joint being provided with] a plurality of first tubes which extend to said hydraulic equipment disposed on said upper swing structure and including said valve apparatuses for control of said travel motors and said blade cylinder (80a) being connected to said body and a plurality of second tubes which extend to said hydraulic equipment disposed on said lower travel structure and including said travel motors and said blade cylinder being connected to said spindle, said plurality of first tubes and said plurality of second tubes being communicated with each other through a plurality of circumferential grooves formed in an inner peripheral surface of said body and an outer peripheral surface of said spindle and through a plurality of axial passages formed inside said spindle such that said plurality of first tubes and said plurality of second tubes are coupled to each other in a relatively rotatable manner,

wherein said body has thicker wall portions formed respectively in opposed sidewalls thereof that the other sidewalls thereof, a plurality of axial passages communicating with said

plurality of circumferential grooves are formed in a row respectively ~~inside~~ within said thicker wall portions, said plurality of axial passages being opened at an upper end surface of said body to provide a plurality of ports and said plurality of first tubes are connected to said plurality of ports whereby said plurality of first tubes are connected to said upper end surface of said body in concentrated layout.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The swivel joint for the construction machine according to Claim 1,

wherein the upper end surface of said body is positioned above a main frame constituting a bottom portion of said swing structure, and said plurality of first tubes are connected to said plurality of ports at a position higher than a bottom surface of said main frame.

4. (Currently Amended) A construction machine comprising a lower travel structure, an upper swing structure, mounted on said lower travel structure, hydraulic equipment disposed on said lower travel structure and including travel motors and a blade cylinder and hydraulic equipment disposed on said upper swing structure and including valve apparatuses for control of said travel motors and said blade, and a swivel joint for coupling a plurality of first tubes extending to said hydraulic equipment disposed on said upper swing structure and including said valve apparatuses for control of said travel motors and said blade cylinder and a plurality of second tubes extending to said hydraulic equipment disposed on said lower

travel structure and including said travel motors and said blade cylinder in a relatively rotatable manner,

wherein said swivel joint comprises a body rotating together with said upper swing structure, and a spindle mounted to said lower travel structure and rotatably inserted in said body,

said plurality of first tubes being connected to said body and said plurality of second tubes being connected to said spindle, said plurality of first tubes and said plurality of second tubes being communicated with each other through a plurality of circumferential grooves formed in an inner peripheral surface of said body and an outer peripheral surface of said spindle and through a plurality of axial passages formed inside said spindle, and

wherein said body has thicker wall portions formed respectively in opposed sidewalls thereof than the other sidewalls thereof, a plurality of axial passages communicating with said plurality of circumferential grooves are formed in a row respectively ~~inside~~ within said thicker wall portions, said plurality of axial passages being opened at an upper end surface of said body to provide a plurality of ports, and said plurality of first tubes are connected to said plurality of ports whereby said plurality of first tubes are connected to said upper end surface of said body in concentrated layout.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) The construction machine according to Claim 4,

wherein the upper end surface of said body is positioned above a main frame constituting a bottom portion of said swing structure, and said plurality of first tubes are

connected to said plurality of ports at a position higher than a bottom surface of said main frame.